



ORDER – STONE’S SHEEP UNGULATE WINTER RANGE # U-7-028

Mackenzie Natural Resource District

This order is given under the authority of sections 9(1), 9(2) and 12(1) of the *Government Actions Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 582/2004).

1. The Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, being satisfied that
 - i. the following area contains habitat that is necessary to meet the winter habitat requirements for Stone’s sheep (*Ovis dalli stonei*); and
 - ii. the habitat requires special management that is not otherwise provided for under GAR or another enactment;orders that
 - a) the areas shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A (U-7-028) and contained in the ungulate winter range (UWR) spatial layer stored in the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP) are established as ungulate winter range U-7-028 for Stone’s sheep. The centre point of the line on the attached Schedule A is what establishes the UWR boundary; and
 - b) if there is a discrepancy between the areas shown in the map set out in the attached Schedule A and the UWR spatial layer stored in the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (WHSE_WILDLIFE_MANAGEMENT.WCP_UNGULATE_WINTER_RANGE_SP), the areas as detailed in the UWR spatial layer will take precedent.
2. The Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, being satisfied that
 - i. the general wildlife measures (GWMs) described below are necessary to protect and conserve Stone’s sheep and Stone’s sheep habitat; and
 - ii. GAR or another enactment does not otherwise provide for that protection or conservation;orders that
 - a) the GWMs outlined in Schedule 1 are established for UWR U-7-028, and
 - b) the GWMs 2, 3 and 4 outlined in Schedule 1 are applied to the areas specified in those GWMs.

Schedule 1 – General Wildlife Measures

Definitions

In this schedule:

- a) Word and expressions not defined in this order have the meaning to them in the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations made thereunder, unless context indicates otherwise,
- b) “deactivate” or “deactivation” refers to either partial or complete treatment of roads and trails with the intent to prevent, as much as possible, motor vehicle access while taking into account site-specific operating constraints; where practicable this activity will include right-of-way revegetation activities to manage long-term access,
- c) “Stone’s sheep core winter range” are those winter range units established by way of this Order, and
- d) “Stone’s sheep specified area” is that specified area Unit #12 established by way of this Order.

Harvesting:

- 1. Primary forest activities must not result in the removal of forest and vegetative cover within a Stone’s sheep core winter range, except as provided in GWM 5.
- 2. All helicopter logging activities conducted within 2000 meters line-of-sight of a Stone’s sheep core winter range must take place during the period starting June 15 and ending October 31.
- 3. Within 500 meters horizontal distance of Stone’s sheep core winter range, primary forest activities must take place during the period starting June 15 and ending October 31.
- 4. All roads or access structures within 500 meters of Stone’s sheep core winter range will be deactivated for effective access control within one year following completion of primary forest activities.
- 5. GWM 1 does not apply where:
 - a) guyline anchors and tailholds are required to facilitate timber harvesting adjacent to the Stone’s sheep winter range; or,
 - b) trees are felled in accordance with section 2(3) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*; and,
 - c) trees felled for the purposes in (a) and (b) that fall within the designated Stone’s sheep winter range are retained on-site.

Range:

- 6. Salt or mineral supplement blocks placed within Stone’s sheep core winter range or Stone’s sheep specified area for the purposes of improving or maintaining domestic cattle and/or horse nutrition must be in an unused condition and must not have been predisposed to contact with domestic sheep, goats or llamas.

7. No use of domestic sheep or goats for vegetation management within Stone's sheep specified area.
8. No domestic sheep, goats, llamas or alpacas within existing or new Range tenures within Stone's sheep core winter range or Stone's sheep specified area.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2013
Dave Peterson, A/Deputy Minister
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Appendix 1

These appendices are not part of the legal Order for U-7-028. They are intended to provide guidance for meeting the General Wildlife Measures addressed in the order.

1. As per section 2(2) of the *Government Actions Regulation*, the order entitled “ORDER – Stone’s sheep Ungulate Winter Range #U-7-028” does not apply in respect of;
 - a. any of the following entered into before the order takes effect;
 - i. a cutting permit;
 - ii. a road permit;
 - iii. a timber sale licence that does not provide for cutting permits;
 - iv. a forest licence to cut issued by a timber sales manager under section 47.6(3) of the *Forest Act*;
 - v. subject to subsection (3), a minor tenure.
 - b. a declared area
 - c. areas described in section 196(1) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*; and
 - d. areas referred to in section 110 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*.
2. Authority to consider an exemption from these general wildlife measures is provided in Section 92(1) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation*. In instances where it is not practicable to comply with these measures, a person proposing to conduct forestry activities should consider seeking an exemption from the requirements to comply with the applicable General Wildlife Measures.
3. An exemption application should be submitted to the Minister’s delegate (Director, Resource Management – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) for the Omineca Region) with a rationale describing the nature of the problem and options to integrate winter range conservation with proposed forest practices (a template for exemption requests is available at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/index.html>). This submission will assist in timely consideration of the matter, and will inform the conditions, if any, of the exemption that may be granted prior to commencement of activities. Upon receipt of a complete exemption application, a determination for timing window exemptions will be processed within 10 calendar days, all other exemptions will be handled within 15 working days of arrival at the MFLNRO Regional office. Incomplete packages will be returned to the proponent for resubmission.
4. Exemptions for salvage of dead timber (non-infectious) resulting from severe natural disturbance may only be considered if the proposal is a net benefit to the Ungulate Winter Range species being managed for, as opposed to taking no action.

Appendix 2 – Supporting information

Guidelines for Stone's sheep Ungulate Winter Range

U-7-028, Mackenzie Natural Resource District

These guidelines are intended to compliment the legislated Stone's sheep UWR General Wildlife measures (GWMs), and give further recommendations on how to implement them. These guidelines are important practices while planning and operating within and around UWRs. Professionals preparing operational plans have site-specific discretion and flexibility in prescribing methods to achieve desired habitat condition.

To manage disease risk from domestic sheep and goats:

Further to GWM 6, GWM 7 and GWM 8:

Stone's sheep is a subspecies of thinhorn sheep (*Ovis dalli stonei*). British Columbia supports most of the world's Stone's sheep population. As it is generally acknowledged that thinhorn sheep in Alaska and northwestern Canada have likely seen little exposure to disease organisms carried by domestic sheep and goats (compared to other wild sheep in southern Canada and the US), it is essential that no association occurs between thinhorn sheep and domestic sheep and goats (WAFA, 2012). To this end, Unit #12 comprises a 30km buffer around Stone's sheep core UWR units, as well as UWR units where Stone's sheep occur as a secondary species. These other UWR units are listed in Appendix 3.

The risk of overlap and disease transmission during vegetation management practises by domestic sheep is only likely to occur during the summer period. During this time, Stone's sheep may travel beyond winter range areas to summer range habitat. While 30km is proposed as the legal minimum buffer between Stone's sheep and domestic sheep and goats, *a 50 km buffer is recommended as a Best Management Practise* for these northern BC Stone's sheep populations (Bill Jex, Wildlife Biologist, and Helen Schwantje, Wildlife Veterinarian, FLNRO; Personal communication).

While the use of livestock (eg. horse) attractants is not restricted within U-7-028, the intent of GWM 6 is to ensure that attractants such as salt blocks have not come into contact with domestic sheep, goats or domestic camelids (llamas or alpacas). This is to reduce the risk of transmission of the parapoxvirus, Contagious Ecthyma (also known as soremouth or orf). The virus can survive for years in the environment and is highly contagious to wild sheep and goats.

Appendix 3 – Cross reference to Proposed UWRs U-7-025, U-7- 029 and U-7-030

1. Proposed Stone's sheep Ungulate Winter Range Specified Area Unit #12 within U-7-028 overlaps with the following U-7-030 mountain goat units:

Unit # 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 27, 32, 37, 38, 47, 48, 52, 53, 58, 65, 68, 71, 75, 76, 81, 92, 101, 104, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 117, 118, 128, 129, 131, 138, 141, 144, 147, 162, 178,

189, 255, 260, 278, 285, 293, 295, 309, 310, 317, 319, 326, 327, 328, 329, 332, 335, 341, 346, 350, 356, 359, 362, 363, 365, 367, 374, 378, 382, 392, 394, 401, 402, 411, 420, 421, 558, 578, 580, 595, 626, 637, 648, 653, 659, 660, 677, 685, 690, 707, 728, 730, 737, 741, 749, 791, 799, 801, 918, 919, 920, 921, 983, 1135, 1138, 1146, 1156, 1167, 1204, 1220, 1225, 1311, 1313, 1316, 1323, 1324, 1326

2. Proposed Stone's sheep Ungulate Winter Range Specified Area Unit #12 within U-7-028 overlaps with the following U-7-029 mountain goat units:

Unit # 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83

3. Proposed Stone's sheep Ungulate Winter Range Specified Area Unit # 12 within U-7-028 overlaps with the following U-7-025 northern caribou units:

Unit # 44, 45, 46, 49, 55, 60, 62, 106.

These Units have either mountain goat or northern caribou listed as the primary species, and Stone's sheep listed as the secondary species. To reduce the considerable risk of disease introduction from domestic sheep and goats to naive native Stone's sheep populations, the Specified Area Unit #12 as identified in U-7-028 will apply adjacent to those mountain goat or northern caribou units that have Stone's sheep as a secondary species.

References and links for more information:

Corbould, F.B. 2001. Abundance and distribution of Stone's sheep and mountain goats on the Russel Range, March 1993. PWFwCP Report No. 243. Accessed Jan 8, 2013.

http://www.bchydro.com/pwcp/pdfs/reports/pwfwcp_report_no_243.pdf

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. 2000. Thinhorn sheep in British Columbia. Ecology, Conservation and Management. <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/thinhorn.pdf>

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. 2013. Draft – Best management practises for helicopter operation and wildlife in the Omineca Region. Landbase Stewardship BMP Series. Feb. 6, 2013.

Wild Sheep Working Group. 2012. Recommendations for domestic sheep and goat management in wild sheep habitat. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Watts, Glen. 2013. Identification of critical Stone's sheep winter range habitat in the Mackenzie Resource District. FLNRO. Personal communication.